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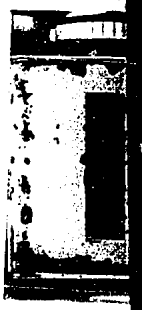

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PROBLEM OF FUEL UTILIZATION AND STANDARDIZATION OF FUEL CONSUMPTION IN SOVIET PETROLEUM-REFINING INDUSTRY

I. I. Tatarinov

The April 1950 issue of this periodical contained three articles on the problems of fuel utilization and the standardization of fuel consumption in the petroleum-refining industry.

I find that I cannot agree with some of the conclusions which were stated by the authors of these articles.

Safaraliyev, in his article, recommends the use of differentiated norms only, using them to determine planned fuel consumption for an entire plant, and comparing this consumption with actual consumption. In my opinion, such a method is inaccurate. Differentiated norms of fuel consumption may be used to analyze the work of separate installations. But when analyzing fuel consumption for plants, trusts, etc., it is necessary to use only combined norms, which take into account the most rational technological plan for production, a plan which considers the most profitable load for the installations.

Forer, in his article, finds fault with the practice of establishing fuel consumption norms on the basis of raw materials, and not on the basis of finished products.

The present nomenclature for prepared petroleum products includes 50 designations, and taking into account the various grades of these products raises the number to 130. In addition, a single type and grade of finished product is obtained via different technological methods with varied specific fuel consumption relative to raw-material composition and type of installation. Consequently, norms based on finished products would necessitate further differentiation by plant and process, resulting in about 100 norms for the Ministry of Petroleum Industry, plus a still greater number of norms differentiated by plant and process. The development of such a system would require great expenditures of time without guaranteeing the ultimate establishment of a totally new and satisfactory

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system of standardization. While I agree with Forer that a new system is needed and believe that his idea has possibilities, it is my opinion that, meanwhile, measures should be instituted to improve the existing system.

Following are some basic suggestions in this direction:

1. Exclude as fuel-consumption norm factors fuel expended on nonproductive, cultural, and communal needs. Direct or indirect (via steam) consumption for heating and other purposes in bakery plants, dining rooms, shops, living quarters, industry schools, research institutes, central laboratories, etc., should not be included in plant, trust, association, or main administration production norms. These categories should be covered by the establishment of quarterly and annual limits.

2. Norm factors on petroleum refining processes should not include fuel used to produce electric power or heat which is used by refinery plants, trusts, and associations.

Thus, fuel norms for petroleum-refining processes should include only the factor of immediate fuel consumption; so-called "fuel consumption via steam" is subject to replacement by heat-energy consumption standards.

3. Norms for both fuel consumption and heat consumption should be established for the processing of paraffin, bitumen, coke, contact, sulfuric acid, catalyst, and other products not directly related to distillation, cracking, and pyrolysis processes.

4. The number of petroleum-refining processes for which fuel consumption is standardized should be increased, taking into account that these processes should adhere to the basic trends in production technology and permit immediate gauging of the fuel being consumed. At present, the following processes may be recommended: distillation, thermal cracking, catalytic cracking, combination processing, and pyrolysis, plus the contact processing of mazut.

Execution of the measures described provides for a partial transfer of the existing system of standardization for some secondary refining processes to finished production and allows a truer reflection of the effect of changes in production technology on standardized fuel consumption.

In conclusion, the necessity for and advantages of the use of so-called combined norms should be noted.

Combined plant norms are established on the basis of norms differentiated according to the most satisfactory load for installations to assure fulfillment of the assigned production plan. Higher-level combination of norms for plant, trust, association, main administration, and ministry should be carried out on the basis of the combined plant norms and the production plans for these plants.

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